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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

26111 7590 06/23/2011
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.
1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

TAN, ALVIN H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,511	02/23/2004	David Killian	2100.0060001	7601

TITLE OF INVENTION: USER INTERFACE FOR MULTI-DEVICE CONTROL

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	09/23/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,511	02/23/2004	David Killian	2100.0060001	7601

TITLE OF INVENTION: USER INTERFACE FOR MULTI-DEVICE CONTROL

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	09/23/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
TAN, ALVIN H	2172	715-771000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached;
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47, Rev. 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, _____
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.111. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE _____

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY) _____

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reuply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____
Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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EXAMINER

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DATE MAILED: 06/23/2011

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 179 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 179 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/783,511

Applicant(s)

KILLIAN ET AL.

Examiner

ALVIN TAN

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/4/11.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 5, 13, 19, 21, 22, 24, 27, and 33-43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/13/11
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

PROPOSED EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jason D. Eisneberg on 6/15/11.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims **11, 12, 25, and 26**.

Please amend claims **1, 13, 27, and 41-43** as follows:

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

A graphical user interface for managing a plurality of system components within a controlled environment, ~~to perform a selected activity~~, comprising:

a first set of control objects configured for selecting a system component within the controlled environment, wherein,

activation of a control object from said first set denotes said selected system component and populates the user interface with control options,

each control option is associated with a sequence of commands that, if executed, sends instructions to control ~~the~~ operations or functions of said selected system component ~~in accordance with the selected activity~~;

a second set of control objects displayed concurrently with said control options associated with said selected system component, wherein,

each control object within said second set of control objects is ~~configurable for viewing~~ configured to allow viewing of the respective control object on the user interface and represents an affiliate system component ~~associated with the selected activity~~ and is ~~capable of~~ configured to allow providing of an input to said selected system component,

activation of a control object from said second set populates the user interface with control options for an affiliate system component associated with the activated control object from the second set,

each control option for said affiliate system component is associated with a sequence of commands that, when executed, sends instructions to control ~~the~~ operations or functions of said affiliate system component ~~in accordance with the selected activity~~, and

said control options for said affiliate system component are displayed concurrently with said second set of control objects on the user interface; ~~and~~

a third set of control objects representing one or more affiliate system components, the one or more affiliate system components configured to provide ~~being~~ ~~capable of providing~~ an input to said selected system component ~~and associated with performing the selected activity and capable of being controlled by proxy via a control object from said first set and/or said second set of control objects~~, and wherein the third set of control objects are configured to be pre-configured by a user to be hidden from

display on the user interface, ~~while maintaining the user interface at a constant size regardless of whether the third set of control objects are displayed or hidden from display; and~~

device definition device configured to specify associations among one or more affiliate system components and a primary system component, and thereby establishing a chain of system components including said primary system component and said one or more affiliate system components, wherein said primary system component is associated with a primary control object from said first set, wherein activation of said primary control object populates the user interface with control options for executing commands to send instructions to control operations or functions of said chain of system components.

Please amend Claim 13 as follows:

A method of managing a plurality of system components within a controlled environment ~~for performing a selected activity~~, comprising:

presenting, on a user interface, a first set of control objects, each object being associated with one or more system components within the controlled environment;

selecting a system component in response to receiving an activation signal associated with a control object from said first set;

populating said user interface with control options for the selected system component;

associating each control option with a sequence of executable commands that sends instructions to control the operations or functions of the selected system component ~~in accordance with the selected activity;~~

presenting, on said user interface concurrently with said control options associated with said selected system component, a second set of control objects, wherein each control object within said second set of control objects represents an affiliate system component ~~associated with the selected activity and capable of~~ configured to allow providing of an input to the selected system component ~~and capable of being controlled by proxy via a control object from said first set of control objects, and has been~~ configured for viewing on said user interface;

presenting, on said user interface concurrently with said second set of control objects, control options for an affiliate system component in response to activating a control object from said second set;

hiding from display on the user interface one or more affiliate system components ~~that are associated with performing the selected activity,~~ but are pre-configured by a user not to be displayed, ~~while maintaining the user interface at a constant size regardless of whether the one or more affiliate system components are displayed or hidden from display; and~~

associating ~~each~~ control options for each affiliate system component configured for viewing on the user interface with a sequence of executable commands that sends instructions to control the operations or functions of said affiliate system component configured for viewing on the user interface and said one or more affiliate system

components configured by a user not to be displayed on the user interface in accordance with the selected activity and;

associating each the control options for each the selected system component with a sequence of executable commands that sends instructions to control the operations or functions of the selected system component and/or the one or more affiliate system components configured by a user not to be displayed on the user interface in accordance with the selected activity; and

specifying associations among one or more affiliate system components and a primary system component, and thereby establishing a chain of system components including said primary system component and said one or more affiliate system components, wherein said primary system component is associated with a primary control object from said first set, wherein activation of said primary control object populates said user interface with control options for executing commands to send instructions to control operations or functions of said chain of system components.

Please amend Claim 27 as follows:

A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means embedded in said medium for causing a computer to manage a plurality of system components within a controlled environment to perform a selected activity, comprising:

first computer readable program code means for presenting, on a user interface, a first set of control objects, each object being associated with one or more system components within the controlled environment;

second computer readable program code means for selecting a system component in response to receiving an activation signal associated with a control object from said first set;

third computer readable program code means for populating said user interface with control options for the selected system component;

fourth computer readable program code means for associating each control option with a sequence of executable commands that sends instructions to control the operations or functions of the selected system component ~~in accordance with the selected activity;~~

fifth computer readable program code means for presenting, on said user interface concurrently with said control options associated with the selected system component, a second set of control objects, wherein each control object within said second set of control objects is configurable for viewing on said user interface and represents an affiliate system component ~~associated with the selected activity and capable of~~ configured to allow providing of an input to the selected system component ~~and capable of being controlled by proxy via a control object from said first set of control objects;~~

sixth computer readable program code means for presenting, on said user interface concurrently with said second set of control objects, control options for an

affiliate system component in response to activating a control object from said second set;

seventh computer readable program code means for associating each control option for said affiliate system component with a sequence of executable commands that sends instructions to control ~~the~~ operations or functions of said affiliate system component ~~in accordance with the selected activity; and~~

eighth computer readable program code for hiding from display on the user interface one or more affiliate system components ~~that are associated with performing the selected activity, but are pre-configured by a user not to be displayed, while maintaining the user interface at a constant size regardless of whether the one or more affiliate system components are displayed or hidden from display; and~~

ninth computer readable program code means for associating one or more affiliate system components and a primary system component, and thereby establishing a chain of system components including said primary system component and said one or more affiliate system components, wherein said primary system component is associated with a primary control object from said first set, wherein activation of said primary control object populates said user interface with control options for executing commands to send instructions to control operations or functions of said chain of system components.

Claim 41:

On [line 2] of the claim, please change "the one" to --one--.

Claim 42:

On [line 2] of the claim, please change "the one" to --one--.

Claim 43:

On [line 3] of the claim, please change "the one" to --one--.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 5, 13, 19, 21, 22, 24, 27, and 33-43 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Examiner has carefully considered claims 1, 5, 13, 19, 21, 22, 24, 27, and 33-43. None of the cited arts of records discloses, suggests, nor teaches managing a plurality of system components within a controlled environment comprising a first set of control objects configured for selecting system component within the controlled environment... a second set of control objects displayed concurrently with said control options associated with said selected system component, wherein, each control object within said second set of control objects... represents an affiliate system component and is configured to allow providing of an input to said selected system component, activation of a control object from said second set populates the user interface with control options for an affiliate system component associated with the activated control object from the second set... said control options for said affiliate system component are displayed

concurrently with said second set of control objects on the user interface, a third set of control objects representing one or more affiliate system components, the one or more affiliate system components configured to provide an input to said selected system component, and wherein the third set of control objects are configured to be pre-configured by a user to be hidden from display on the user interface; and device definition device configured to specify associations among one or more affiliate system components and a primary system component, and thereby establishing a chain of system components including said primary system component and said one or more affiliate system components specified by said input or output links or dependencies, wherein said primary system component is associated with a primary control object from said first set, wherein activation of said primary control object populates the user interface with control options for executing commands to send instructions to control operations or functions of said chain of system components, as recited in claim 1.

The closest prior art, Hasha et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,734,879), discloses a method and system for generating a user interface for controlling software components through a user control point device [*column 2, lines 25-27*]. A main portion of a display contains menu items implemented as buttons for various components associated with the current space. The components relate to audio/video, lighting, climate control, elevator control, art control, and high resolution monitor control [*column 4, lines 49-55; figure 1*]. When a user selects one of the buttons, the user interface for the corresponding software component is provided by a user interface component for that software component [*column 4, lines 55-58*]. [*Figure 2*] illustrates a display after the

audio/video button has been selected. The main portion reflects options relating to controlling audio/video [column 5, lines 5-8]. As shown, the main portion contains a control center component corresponding to an entertainment center, an ambient audio hardware component, or other hardware component for controlling various control center components within the space [column 5, lines 13-18]. Various program selector buttons are provided for controlling various programs such as a movie, television channel, or music albums [column 5, lines 10-13]. [Figure 3], which shows a display after the music album selector button has been selected. Various controls in the main portion allow the user to select an available album and to direct the music to a hardware component, such as the ambient audio component [column 5, lines 20-27]. Each user control point (UCP) device includes a list of spatial services that can be controlled by the user. The UCP object may identify its corresponding space from configuration information and establish a tracking reference to the space object for the corresponding space. The identity of the corresponding space can be obtained from any number of places including a registry system whose information can be manually entered or automatically established from user preferences [column 6, line 19 to column 7, line 4]. Hasha does not teach all the limitations above.

A second close prior art, Sharood et al (Pub. No. US 2002/0022991 A1), discloses a similar system for providing a user interface for controlling distributed devices [paragraph 13]. [Figure 7c] shows an interface for managing a plurality of system components. As shown, a user selects a first set of control objects such as temperature, appliances, scenes, lighting, audio/video, and intercom. A second set of

control objects is displayed within tool bar 752 along with concurrently displayed control options 754 and 755 corresponding to a selected one of the control objects from the tool bar. Displaying the second set of control objects concurrently with the control options allows users to more easily switch between selections. Sharood does not teach all the limitations above.

A third close prior art, Dresti et al (Pub. No. US 2003/0103088 A1), discloses an electronic device having a remote control application user interface that functions to display operational mode information to a user *[paragraph 4, lines 1-4]*. A wheel 110 *[figure 11]* contains icons representing devices and/or activities *[paragraph 142, lines 1-3]*. The icons function as soft keys that may be selected to cause the performance of a further action, for example, to display a device control page, cause the transmission of commands, etc. *[paragraph 138, lines 5-9]*. Users can select the devices by clicking on the appropriate icon in the wheel, wherein a page of control functions for that device would be displayed *[paragraph 151, lines 10-15; figure 19a]*. The home screen device wheel 110 may contain device and activity icons *[paragraph 142, lines 1-3]*. When editing an activity icon, the user is presented with a set of control objects in which to select the device to be operated. Selecting a device would then populate the interface with a set of control options for that device. A series of keystrokes is then input, which would control the selected device when the activity icon is run *[paragraph 212, lines 9-14; paragraph 180, lines 6-24]*. Further, activities represent a desired configuration of one or more devices that is centered around a given pastime. For example, a 'watch movies' activity might be setup to cause the transmission of commands to select the

DVD player as the audio/video source, set the surround sound mode on the audio amplifier, switch the TV input to S-Video, etc. [paragraph 137, lines 14-20]. Thus, in order to setup an activity involving multiple system components, an affiliate system component may be selected and configured by presenting an interface with a set of control option for the affiliate system component. If an activity has already been established and a user wishes to edit the activity, the user would be able to identify any devices being operated by the activity, including a first component and any affiliate components. Dresti does not teach all the limitations above.

Similar subject matter is disclosed in independent claims 13 and 27.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALVIN TAN whose telephone number is (571)272-8595. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boris Pesin can be reached on 571-272-4070. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alvin H Tan/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2172